March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

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3月のライオン

Chapter. 7

Hina

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion
Chika Umino

Hina-chan has been very distressed.

SFX: PERI PERI.... (SCHNIP SCHNIP....)

SO, WOULD FRIED CHICKEN AND EGGS BE OKAY?

AH—

AND... LET'S ADD SOME CHOPPED SALTED VEGGIES, SO IT WON'T BE TOO SWEET.

HMM...

IT HAS TO BE CUTER!!

Wah...

NO! IT CAN'T BE BROWN!

SFX: PATA PATA (SLAP SLAP)

SFX: BATA BATA (FLAP FLAP)

BUT HE'S A BOY IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, RIGHT?

AND IF IT'S AFTER A GAME, THEN...

INSTEAD OF, "THIS IS CUTE," WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF IT WAS LIKE, "THIS LOOKS DELICIOUS!"

Um...

HAPPY

TADA! ☆

WHEN YOU OPEN IT, IT'S GOTTA BE LIKE...

Tada! ☆

LIKE, "WOW, SO CUTE!!!"

Ahh, you won't understand...

It's good that I called you over! I ended up buying 4kg... (They were so cheap that I...)

IT'S SO NEAT, TOO...

KIRIYAMA-KUN IS SKILLED...

Tomorrow is Sunday.

SFX: PAKI PAKI PAKI (SCHNIP SCHNIP SCHNIP)

daydreaming

PEEL PEEL

HUH?

AH, YEAH.

YOU'VE FINISHED PEELING THAT MUCH ALREADY!?

Kya

RIGHT? KIRIYAMA-KUN...

W-

THAT...

SFX: PARA PARA... (THE SCRAPS FALLING DOWN...)

The baseball team at Hina's middle school has a match.

IT LASTS A LONG TIME SO IT'S THE PERFECT SNACK DURING WINTER.

THAT'S RIGHT, IF YOU JUST BOIL IT.

I'VE NEVER COOKED AND EATEN THE INNER SKINS.

SO THE BROWN SKIN IS EDIBLE TOO, HUH?

NOW HE'S THE ACE AND IDOL OF THE BASEBALL TEAM AT HINA'S SCHOOL.

TAKAHASHI 4

And it looks like she wants to present a homemade bento

to this person she's "taken a liking to,"

(which, no matter how you look at it, has to be Takahashi-kun.)

COMPETITION'S GOTTEN FIERCE.

BUT HINA HAS HAD A CRUSH ON TAKAHASHI-KUN EVER SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL....

SFX: KAKAAA (BBLUSHHH)

And it seems that, at that match,

the person who Hina has taken a liking to will be playing.

THOUGH HE USED TO BE TINY...

HIS NAME IS TAKAHASHI...

HE'S THE MILKMAN'S SON.

Little League

I GUESS HE MUST'VE DRUNK UP EVERY LAST DROP OF MILK AT HIS OWN PLACE.

BOTTLE: COW MILK

JERSEY: SANRATSU-CHOU

SFX: NNKU NNKU (GULP GULP)

That's not it at all!

That's not it!

T...

peeling chestnut skins to be cooked.

Okay, okay. I'm sorry.

Why do you always have to go and say stuff like that!

Onei-chan is such a dummy-)

Loves to do detailed work.

SFX: FUMU FUMU OHAM HNNO

SFX: PAKI PAKI (SCHNIP SCHNIP)

–So that's why I'm sitting here now, the night before this monumental event in this young lady's life,

WHAT?

LET ME SEE.

WHAT IF I DO THIS?

Hm...

AND IF YOU RUSH, YOU'LL MAKE MISTAKES, RIGHT? LIKE THE SEASONING, OR...

I MEAN, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT'LL TAKE, WHICH MEANS YOU'LL RUSH.

I THINK IT'S TOO RISKY IF IT'S SOMETHING YOU'RE MAKING FOR THE FIRST TIME.

Th– Then,

What should I do!?

HMM, I SEE...

Hmmm...

Boil the squash, mash it, and make it into balls. Cover it in flour, then dip it in egg yolk, and then cover it with bread crumbs...

THE GAME STARTS AT 10, RIGHT? IF YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE AT 9:30...

SQUASH CROQUETTES THAT LOOK LIKE APPLES

AND A FIELD OF FLOWERS MADE FROM ONIGIRI.

SFX: KUN (SWEAT)

Old lady!?

That's something old lady would make! No way—!!

I DON'T WANT TO DO THAT! THAT'S SO PLAIN!

EH!?

AND IF YOU WANT SOMETHING RED, ADD CHERRY TOMATOES OR...

WHY NOT JUST MAKE FRIED CHICKEN AND EGGS.

Is there anything I can eat here? Nya–

SFX: SUN (SWEAT) NYA (SWEAT)

SFX: DOKI DOKI.... (BADUM BADUM...)

SFX: PUI (TURN AWAY)

SFX: HARA HARA (SWEAT SWEAT)

SFX: TSUUN (POUT)

SFX: BONG BONG

SFX: OZU OZU... (TIMIDLY)

Empty

Ah.

OH NO!

IT'S SO LATE ALREADY...

AND MARUEI CLOSES AT 10...

Um...

Onii-chan...

Could you...

I want to buy these, but I don't have any money...

PUFF

PUFF

Is this a bento from some fancy restaurant?

Just looking at it, it's got to be more than ¥5000.

Hey! What the heck are you making!?

I mean, how many things are you planning to buy!?

This is so extravagant...

Uuu....

Kya—!

WHAT IS THIS...

Avocado, asparagus, baby corn, balsamic vinegar, lemons, mushrooms, paprika (red) (yellow) rosemary, oyster mushrooms, fresh basil, decorative cups, toothpicks, and...

Acorn squash, minced beef, bread crumbs, onions, eggs, black pepper, radishes, olives.

Pet me more, more purr vroom purr

SFX: MOCCHIRI... (SELF SATISFIED) SFX: TUYA TUYA (SPARKLE)

SFX: BISHI (ZAP)

What is this!!! Onei-chan you dummy, you spend ALL your money on other people's kids!!!

Aren't the meowies and Kiriyama-kun the same?

Someone else's kid?

What?!

When the ¥158 milk I buy is already the cheapest one out there!!!

Why do we have to spend ¥3000 of our food money on a bento for someone else's kid?

Someone else's kids

I don't wanna~

SFX: KISHI (GLITCH)

SORRY...

AH, UM, WELL,

Ahh... awkward...

You're not Momo's big brother?

Where did you come from?

Ah—

REI-CHAN IS SOMEONE ELSE'S KID?

I'VE SAID I WOULD PAY FOR MY FOOD EXPENSES BEFORE, BUT,

AKARI-SAN JUST WOULDN'T ACCEPT IT...

AH, NO, ME TOO.

I'M SOR-RY.

UM... ABOUT THAT...

BUT, WITH THIS, SHE JUST MIGHT BE WILLING TO ACCEPT IT.

AND THEN I WON'T FEEL SO IN-DEBTED.

BA-DUM

.....

YOU KNOW, MY SISTER...

SHE BRINGS HOME WHATEVER SHE SEES.

SPARROWS AND CATS.

SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT. WHENEVER SHE SEES SOMETHING PITIFUL.

SHE JUST CAN'T LEAVE IT ALONE.

Chirp... Chirp... Chirp...

Wuh... Wan...

Nya... Nya.

AND...

SHE LIKES TO NURSE THEM BACK TO HEALTH SO THEY'RE NICE AND FAT.

...

Mmm

BUT, I WAS REALLY SURPRISED WHEN SHE BROUGHT A PERSON BACK HOME.

Me?

BUT, IT'LL BE ALRIGHT.

I'M SURE THAT MY SISTER WILL BE ABLE TO NURSE YOU BACK TO HEALTH SOON SO YOU'RE NICE AND FAT TOO.

YUP.

IS THAT SO...

SFX: RASHAAAN (CLAAANK)

UH HUH!

THAT'S RIGHT!

I SEE

And so came Sunday morning...

Kya——!

SFX: BONG BONG BONG

No way! It's already 8!?

Why!?

I woke up at 6!

SFX: SHAAA (TWEEET)

Ahhh, something smells burnt!

Is that the apple sauce!?

Kya—!

SFX: SHAAA (TWEEET)

The croquettes that I spent so much time making into balls—

Do I have to start over!?

SFX: MACHINE RUCHIN' XSS

SFX: BONG BONG BONG

This makes me look way too perky!!!

What!? This would be way too stylish.

Aah! Right! What should I wear!?

All that was on my mind was the bento, I didn't think about this at all!

SFX: ACK

SFX: BUBUBUBUBUBU (BUZZING)

Um. "I'm going to be late. Please go ahead of me." Send.

Oh, it's Yoko-chan.

SFX: PIPOPI (BEEP BEEP BEEP)

Noo!

Who is it? I don't have a free hand right now.

SFX: BONG BONG BONG

When did it get this late!

GAH

PHEW...

THESE CURTAINS WERE UNEX-PECTEDLY EXPEN-SIVE...

BUT WITH THESE I CAN FINALLY SLEEP IN PEACE.

カーテン+カーペット

下田

NO

10 PM

ボーン ボーン ボーン...

SPIT SOME MORE SOME

1, 1

2, 2

HINA-CHAN'S MIDDLE SCHOOL

WA—

WA—

HM?

I DON'T HAVE ANY MATCHES FOR A WHILE, SO IT'S A NICE OPPORTUNITY.

IF I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO TAKE CARE OF AT HOME THEN

And some chairs, and a desk, bookshelves...

Ah, this is...

Kya—

Kya—

Do your best—!!

Oh.

There she is.

Hiii!!

I wonder if she finished the bento in time...

Ah... So this is the Takahashi-kun that everyone was talking about.

And he certainly does look pretty cool...

He's huge. Is he really a middle school student?

Takahashi

Kya—

Kya—

Takahashi-kun

KYA! TAKA-HASHI-KUN!

SFX: KA-NN

Awe-some!

KYA— HE DID IT!

Kya—

SFX: PAKOO (OOH)

You're the best! Man, I love you!

home run!?

A...

Taka-hashi!!! I love you!

I've always loved you!!!

I love you!

EH!?

TAKAHASHI!!

UPSET WIN!

Ohhh

wa wa

Ah

I've never seen Hina-chan with that expression on her face before.

It's the face of the spring-time of youth.

It's bitter-sweet...

She's, like, completely in love!

Wh-Whoa...

Am-Amazing...

Man, he's totally like the main character out of some shounen manga.

He really hit it out there...

Love.

...

I love you...

AH, YEAH.

TAKAHASHI, YOU'RE COMIN' TOO RIGHT? TO MATSUDA?

You were so cool~

Good work!

UH, (UHM)

SO,

TAKA-HASHI-KUN ?

AFTER WE CHANGE, LETS MEET UP AT MATSUDA

EH!? MAT-SUDA?

FOR MONJA? I'M STARVIN'~

Thank you!

SFX: ZAWA ZAWA (CRUZZ BUZZ)

YAY~

All right! It's gonna be monja!

Can we go too?!

You're going to Mat-suda?

Ah~

I'm so hungry. Takahashi, we're leaving~!

What should I get!?

I want to eat monja too!

SFX: KAHAHA (GIGGLE)

SFX: GUI (GRASP)

Hahaha

hahaha

hahaha

DON'T DO THAT.

SFX: GUI (GRAB)

Last night and

just a moment ago

SNIFF

SNIFF.

you looked so happy...

BIG SIS' WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND.

Why are you crying?

CAUSE

What...

BUT, ONEI-CHAN IS GONNA ASK...

SHE'LL SAY,

"WHY DIDN'T YOU GIVE IT TO HIM...? YOU PUT ALL THAT EFFORT INTO MAKING IT!"

ANY-ONE WOULD BE GLAD TO...

IF IT WAS A BENTO THAT ONEI-CHAN MADE,

ONEI-CHAN IS SO PRETTY... AND SHE'S GOOD AT COOKING

I just

don't understand women.

UWA-N

OKAY.

LET'S GO HOME.

WHEN WE GET BACK WE CAN ALL EAT TOGETHER.

WE'RE BACK.

AH...

SO YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO GIVE IT TO HIM.

THAT'S SUCH A SHAME.

YOU TRIED SO HARD.

Fu...

U...

Wah

AH, THERE THERE.

DON'T CRY.

I UNDER-STAND.

IT'S HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE, TOO.

I UNDER-STAND.

I WANTED TO MAKE A REALLY CUTE ONE,

AND I WAS SO HAPPY...

I TRIED HARD, AND I RUSHED,

AND I FAILED...

THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T HELP IT AND SAID THAT...

ふぃ

ふぃ

THERE WERE TIMES WHERE YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO GIVE IT TO SOMEONE TOO?

THAT'S RIGHT, THERE WERE.

JUST LIKE YOU, HINA.

OKAY THEN,

HOW ABOUT WE EAT TOGETHER?

Okay!

A LONG TIME AGO, MOM SAID THE EXACT SAME THINGS TO ME.

THE THINGS I SAID TO HINA LAST NIGHT,

BUT, YOU KNOW,

I REMEMBERED...

MOM...?

IT'S FUNNY, ISN'T IT?

AHH, LIKE MOTHER LIKE DAUGHTER, I GUESS...

HUH? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FURBALLS?

ALL RIGHT, THE TEA IS DONE, SO LET'S EAT...

THAT THEY FELL ASLEEP?

THEY'RE SO FULL

SFX: HABU HABU (MUNCH MUNCH)

はぐはぐ…

EH? Really? Is it really okay!?

SFX: KA KA (SCRAPE SCRAPE)

HM? WHAT? YOU WANT SOME?

I GUESS YOU CAN HAVE SOME TODAY...

it truly tasted like a conclusion to a first love.

bitter, sweet, and sour...

Huh? Nope!

It was...

HINA, DID YOU... EVEN TASTE THIS?

Gulp

HOW IS IT, KIRI-YAMA-KUN?

Ugh

chat's what Kiriyama-kun and Onei-chan thought.

At least...

Okay.

I'm gonna do my best next time too!

It might have been for the best

that she wasn't able to give out her first bento.

Hina...

Let's do some special training together...

...that's right... Onei-chan always did all the seasoning for you...

Chapter 7 end